IN THE CLAIMS

The Examiner is requested to substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim number:

1.   (Amended)   A method, for use in a user computer system including a pointing device and a visual display unit, for providing a graphical user interface to a computer program for displaying search results from a search conducted in a hierarchical data set, the method comprising:

        receiving search results from a search query of a hierarchical data set; and

        displaying on a user screen, a graphical representation of parent categories for search results, wherein the displayed search results appear within their respective parent categories.

2.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

        selecting a parent category from the display on the user screen; and

        displaying on the user screen a graphical representation of the search results in the selected parent category in the context of the search results' respective first uncommon level of subcategories.

3.   (Amended)   A method of presenting search results, the method comprising:

        receiving search results from a database;

        organizing the search results by category; and

        graphically displaying the search results within at least one category icon, each at least one category icon representing a category to which search results belong.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

representing the search results displayed within the at least one category icon as category member icons.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

distinguishing between categories to which the displayed category member icons belong by at least one of shape, color and sound.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

selecting a category member icon; and

generating a perceptible excerpt relating to the search results represented by the selected category member icon comprising at least one of textual, aural, imagery or video data.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

representing the search results as a number appearing within the at least one category icon, the number representing the quantity of data elements from the search results that fall within the category represented by the category icon.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the search results includes a plurality of data elements, the method further comprising:

representing on the user screen, all data elements included within the search results.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the search results includes a

plurality of data elements, further comprising:

        providing a simple API comprising a category path and a URL for each data element.

10.   (Amended)   The method of claim 4 wherein the search results includes a plurality of data elements, further comprising:

        displaying explicit hierarchical downward path information of a selected data element.

11.   (Amended)   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

        changing the appearance of a category member icon after the at least one data element represented by the category member icon has been accessed.

12.   (Amended)   The method of claim 13, wherein each search result represents at least one data element, further comprising:

        drilling out from a selected category member icon to directly access the at least one data element represented by the selected category member icon.

13.   (Amended)   The method of claim 4, further comprising:

        drilling down from a selected category icon to display at least two category icons for subcategories of the search results displayed within the selected category icon and displaying such search results within the category icons of the subcategories.

14.   (Amended)   The method of claim 8, further comprising:

        zooming in to the displayed category member icons;

        enlarging the display space larger than the user display; and

scanning category member icons across the user screen.

15.   (Amended)   The method of claim 8, wherein the size of the at least one category icon is proportional to the number of search results within the category represented by the at least one category icon.

16.   (Amended)   The method of claim 13, further comprising:

accessing a category icon;

changing the appearance of the accessed category icon to indicate the accessed category icon has been accessed.

17.   (Amended)   The method of claim 4, further comprising:

deriving the numerical relevance rank for a search result from the search result's position within a search results list; and

displaying the search result's numerical relevance rank within the category member icon representing the search result.

18.   (Amended)   A method of presenting search results, comprising:

receiving search results from a database, each search result having a category path, the category path of each search result including a parent category and at least one lower level category;

organizing the search results by category;

graphically displaying the search results within at least one parent category icon, the at least one parent category icon representing the parent category of search results having such parent category in their respective category paths;

representing each search result displayed within the at least one parent category icon as a category member icon;

distinguishing between categories to which the displayed category member icons belong by at least one of shape, color and sound; and

from at least one parent category icon, providing access to at least two lower level category icons, wherein each search result displayed within the at least one parent category icon is displayed within a lower level category icon.

19.   (Amended)   A method of presenting search results, comprising:

receiving search results from a database;

organizing the search results by category;

graphically displaying the search results within at least one category icon, the category icon representing a category to which search results belong;

representing the search results displayed within the category icon as category member icons; and

distinguishing between categories to which the displayed category member icons belong by at least one of shape, color and sound.

20.   (Amended)   A method of requesting the display of search results based on the category paths of the search results, the method comprising:

under control of a client system, displaying a search request window, and in response to the entry and selection of a search request, sending the search request to a server system;

under control of the server system, receiving the search request,

having a search conducted by a search engine,

writing GUI script software capable of generating every potential arrangement of matching web sites in the context of their respective parent category and subcategories, and

downloading the GUI script software to browser software on the client system; and

under control of the client system, displaying matching search results in the context of their respective parent categories, and upon the user selecting, with a selection device, a parent category, displaying the matching search results of the selected parent category in the context of their respective first uncommon level of subcategories.